



## Reclaim the initiative with the 2025 Peoples' Platform Europe!

The *Peoples' Platform – Europe* (PPE) will gather delegates of grassroots democratic movements and organizations across Europe on the 14-16<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in Vienna, Austria for three days of discussion to develop a common ground of understanding for collective political action. The PPE is co-organized by the Academy of Democratic Modernity and more than 20 organizations from across Europe that participated in the preparatory process.

Around 700 delegates of more than 160 organizations, political groups, campaigns and networks from more than 40 different regions of Europe will participate in the PPE.

In a time of deepening social, ecological, and political crises, where dominant systems of power and governance are unable to provide viable solutions to societal issues, the PPE's proposal "Reclaim the Initiative" stands as a call to grassroots democratic movements and organizations to strengthen connections and develop their own political agenda in order to develop alternatives and lasting solutions.

Participants will divide into nine workshops, to discuss key themes relevant to the European political and social context: (1) War and Peace: Understanding and Resisting European Militarism and Imperialism (2) Antifascism: The Rise of Fascism & the Condition of Democratic Forces in Europe, (3) Ecological Resistance: Defending Life, (4) Women's Democratic Confederalism: Women Weaving the Future, (5) Youth identity and Resistance: Deepening on the Need of Autonomous Youth Organisation, (6) Building Autonomy: Self-governance, Self-sufficiency and Self-defense, (7) Activism and Organization: For a Long-term Struggle Rooted in Society, (8) Against Genocidal Politics: Opposing the Genocidal Politics of Capitalist Modernity, (9) Democratic media: The battle for hearts and minds.

*Noteworthy speakers participating in the PPE include:*

**Silvia Federici:** Italian-American feminist scholar and activist known for her work on labour, gender and capitalism, author of "Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation. Her presentation is titled: "*for an International Feminist Movement Against Capitalist Patriarchy and its Ongoing War on Social Reproduction*"

**Mirielle Fanon Mendes-France:** French psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, political activist, daughter of renowned philosopher and psychiatrist Franz Fanon, and professor at the University of Paris Descartes. She's known for her work on the psychological effects of colonialism and racism. Her presentation is titled: "*The 100th Anniversary of Franz Fanon: Between Race and Class*".

**William I. Robinson:** Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include: macro and comparative sociology, globalization and transnationalism, political economy, political sociology, development and social change, immigration, Latin America and the Third World, and Latina/o studies. His speech will be on: "*the Epochal Crisis of Global Capitalism - Challenges for Popular Resistance from Below*".

**John Holloway:** Irish sociologist and political activist known for his critical work on capitalism and social movements. Holloway's research focuses on the nature of power, resistance, and the potential for social change within the context of global capitalism. His speech is titled "*Perspective in the Storm*".

**Mahmut Şakar:** The lawyer of Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Öcalan and co-chair of the association MAF-DAD. Şakar's speech will commemorate and analyze the 26. Anniversary of International Conspiracy against Öcalan that led to his capture on the 15th of February, 1999. This presentation will be

particularly timely, as it is expected that Ocalan will release a statement on the 15th of February outlining a proposal to a political solution to the Kurdish question.

In addition to the 160 participating organizations, renown activists including Juan Pablo Gutierrez (Yukpa Indigenous People's Organization – Colombia), Greta Thunberg (representing the European "Fridays for Future" ecological movement), members of the ILPS, members of Progressive International and an invited delegation from Latin America will participate in the PPE.

The Academy of Democratic Modernity, the main organizer, with the perspective of developing World Democratic Confederalism, understands its strategic task as to connect existing struggles and create networks of exchange and solidarity. Through this dialogue the Academy aims to overcome ideological divisions, to bring the shared values and interest into the forefront and to create mutual understanding in order to help struggles worldwide gain new strength.

The process of the Peoples!" Platform Europe is a step forward for developing a collective discussion on the broadest possible basis of democratic and revolutionary organizations, movements and collectives to find the answers to the questions of our time.

Members of the press are warmly invited to attend the general sessions of the platform, press conferences organized, or to follow online. There will be opportunities for to organize interviews with participating organizations and noteworthy speakers.

*For further information and to follow the PPE online:*

Twitter: [@PeoplesPlat](https://twitter.com/PeoplesPlat)

Instagram: [@peoplesplatform\\_](https://www.instagram.com/peoplesplatform_)

Website: <https://peoplesplatform.net/>

Youtube: [@Peoples\\_Platform](https://www.youtube.com/@Peoples_Platform)